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BARNSTAPLE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1970



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Mrs. P.J. Holland
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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

John Kemp, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

F. Whittaker, M.A.P.H.I.

G.C. Dunford, M.A.P.H.I.

B.W. Dale, M.A.P.H.I.
(from 1st October, 1970)

STUDENT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J.R. Lambert

MEAT INSPECTORS

M.P. Davis

T.F.M. Ellicott

CLERICAL STAFF

Mrs. Yvonne Horntvedt

Public Health Department,
The Civic Centre,
Barnstaple.

Telephone Barnstaple 72511

To the Chairman and Members
of the Barnstaple Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit my report to you on the
health and statistics of the Rural District for the year
1970.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. H. Law', written in a cursive style.

Medical Officer of Health

October, 1971

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District in acres	129,346
Number of parishes	36
Estimated population	28,870
Population at 1961 census	25,073
Inhabited houses	10,564
Number of Council owned houses	824
Density of persons per house	2.71
Rateable value	£ 998,854
Estimated product of new pence rate	£9,955

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Area comparability factors	Births	1.19
	Deaths	0.81
Live births		391
Live birth rate per 1,000 population		13.5
Live birth rate per 1,000 population corrected		16.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births		5%
Stillbirths		7
Stillbirths rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths		18
Total live and stillbirths		398
Infant deaths (under one year)		4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 total live births		10
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .		11.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births		NIL
Neo-natal mortality rate (under 4 weeks per 1,000 total livebirths)		8
Early neo-natal mortality rate (under 1 week per 1,000 do.)		8
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths		25
Maternal mortality (including abortion)		NIL
Maternal mortality per 1,000 live and stillbirths		NIL
Deaths		388
Death rate per 1,000 population		13.4
Death rate per 1,000 population corrected		10.9

POPULATION

During 1970 the population of the Rural District increased by 220 to 28,870.

Births exceeded deaths by 3 and illegitimate births fell from 31 to 20.

Out of 391 live births during the year; there were 4 infant deaths, giving an infant mortality rate of 10 per 1,000 live births.

POPULATION TRENDS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1951 (census)	23,150	324	314
1952	23,030	342	322
1953	23,360	318	257
1954	23,410	346	296
1955	23,642	334	316
1956	24,070	343	302
1957	24,010	369	300
1958	24,370	362	276
1959	24,370	356	294
1960	25,050	365	272
1961 (census)	25,290	338	299
1962	25,580	353	336
1963	26,020	434	329
1964	26,670	428	325
1965	27,090	405	346
1966	27,560	426	390
1967	28,980	432	325
1968	28,460	429	370
1969	28,650	421	329
1970	28,870	391	388

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	195	176	371
Illegitimate	7	13	20
	202	189	391
<hr/>			
<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	3	4	7

DEATHS

During the year there were 388 deaths (183 males and 205 females) as compared with 329 in the previous year.

<u>Summary of Causes of Death in 1970</u>					<u>Male:</u>	<u>Female:</u>
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	...	...	...	...	7	3
Malignant neoplasm, intestine ...	...	...	...	...	3	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .	...	...	...	...	14	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	...	...	...	...	-	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	...	...	...	...		4
Malignant neoplasm, prostate .	...	...	...	...	5	
Leukaemia ..	...	...	...	...	1	-
Other malignant neoplasms ...	...	...	...	...	12	18
Diabetes mellitus ...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Other diseases of nervous system ...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Hypertensive disease ...	...	...	...	...	5	3
Ischaemic heart disease ...	...	...	...	...	62	64
Other forms of heart disease .	...	...	...	...	3	7
Cerebrovascular disease ...	...	...	...	...	22	40
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	11	12
Influenza ..	...	...	...	...	3	4
Pneumonia ..	...	...	...	...	5	5
Bronchitis and emphysema ...	...	...	...	...	6	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	-
Peptic ulcer ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Cirrhosis of liver ...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system .	...	...	...	...	2	5
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	...	...	...	...	-	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system .	...	...	...	...	1	1
Congenital anomalies ...	...	...	...	...	3	-
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	...	...	...	...	2	4
Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	...	2	3
All other accidents ...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	...	...	...	...	1	1
All other external causes ...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	...	...	...	...	1	-
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					183	205

Neo-Natal Deaths

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of four weeks:-

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Infant Mortality Rate

During the year four infants (3 males and 1 female) died under the age of one year; giving the infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births of 10.

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Deaths in Age Groups

<u>Age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 4 weeks	2	1	3
4 weeks to 1 year	1	0	1
1 to 4 years	1	0	1
5 to 14 years	1	0	1
15 to 24 years	1	0	1
25 to 34 years	1	2	3
35 to 44 years	2	0	2
45 to 54 years	8	6	14
55 to 64 years	24	20	44
65 to 74 years	58	48	106
Over 75	84	128	212

Cancer Deaths

There were eighty eight deaths from cancer in 1970; two less than the previous year.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stomach	7	3	10
Lung and Bronchus	14	5	19
Breast		8	8
Uterus		4	4
Leukaemia	1	0	1
Prostate	5		5
Intestine	3	8	11
Other	12	18	30

Deaths from Lung Cancer

<u>Year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952	5	1	6
1953	5	2	7
1954	5	1	6
1955	5	-	5
1956	7	-	7
1957	8	2	10
1958	9	2	11
1959	7	2	9
1960	6	2	8
1961	9	2	11
1962	10	-	10
1963	11	2	13
1964	12	-	12
1965	12	-	12
1966	10	5	15
1967	8	6	14
1968	11	1	12
1969	11	1	12
1970	14	5	19

Cancer Deaths since 1952

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Cancer Deaths</u> <u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952	322	26	29	55
1953	257	18	27	45
1954	296	20	30	50
1955	316	21	26	47
1956	302	25	30	55
1957	300	31	26	57
1958	276	21	22	43
1959	294	24	28	52
1960	272	20	21	41
1961	299	24	27	51
1962	336	34	37	71
1963	329	34	28	62
1964	325	35	27	62
1965	346	35	23	58
1966	390	36	29	65
1967	325	38	35	73
1968	370	47	37	84
1969	329	41	49	90
1970	388	42	46	88

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of notifiable infectious diseases were reported during the year:-

Infective Jaundice	...	...	...	...	30
Measles	...	...	...	...	259
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	7
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2

Four cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified in accordance with the Regulations, as follows:-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1 - 5	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	1	-	-
45 - 54	1	-	-	-
55 - 64	1	-	-	-
65+	-	1	-	-

Lung Tuberculosis - Distribution of Cases

Fremington	...	...	2
Tawstock	...	...	1
Georgeham	...	...	1

Incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis since 1951

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Case Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 Population</u>
1951	23	0.99	7	0.30
1952	21	0.91	6	0.26
1953	24	1.03	3	0.12
1954	11	0.47	—	—
1955	4	0.17	—	—
1956	7	0.29	—	—
1957	5	0.20	1	0.04
1958	5	0.20	1	0.04
1959	4	0.16	1	0.04
1960	6	0.23	—	—
1961	5	0.20	1	0.04
1962	5	0.23	—	—
1963	2	0.075	—	—
1964	2	0.075	—	—
1965	5	0.185	1	0.04
1966	4	0.145	1	0.04
1967	4	0.143	—	—
1968	4	0.141	1	0.03
1969	3	0.105	—	—
1970	4	0.139	—	—

The following table shows the number of cases on the Rural District tuberculosis register on 1st January and 31st December, 1970.

1970	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1st January	53	40	93	10	20	30
31st December	55	42	97	10	20	30

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

Protective immunization and vaccination against diphtheria whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox and poliomyelitis are undertaken by the general practitioners and the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are four Infant Welfare Clinics organised by the Devon County Health Authority within the District held as follows:-

Fremington Parish Hall	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons
Braunton Parish Hall	Thursday afternoons
Combe Martin Health Centre.....	2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons
Woolacombe Methodist Hall	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There is an infectious diseases section at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford which serves Barnstaple as well as other local authorities in North Devon.

MATERNITY CASES

The North Devon District Hospital Maternity Unit at North Road, Barnstaple was opened during 1968. It has fifty four beds (forty eight general and six special care).

SMALLPOX

All the smallpox cases in the counties of Devon and Cornwall are sent to Liskeard Smallpox Hospital, or to Lee Mill Hospital.

The Plymouth Ambulance Service (Plymouth 64101) provides transport for smallpox cases.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 Section 47 and Amendment Act, 1951

This Section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes to a County Welfare Home.

No cases were dealt with under this Section during the year.

THE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

The mass radiography unit visits Barnstaple fortnightly on alternate Wednesdays, between the hours of 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. It is situate in the Cattle Market (Tuly Street entrance) and is available to the general public (with the exception of children under fifteen years of age and expectant mothers). It is also available for cases referred by the general practitioners in the area, thus releasing the X-ray Department at the North Devon Infirmary to cope with other important X-ray work.

JUNIOR TRAINING CENTRE, ABBEYFIELD, BARNSTAPLE

This centre provides training facilities for mentally-handicapped children between the ages of five and sixteen years. Hostel accommodation is provided for children living some distance from the centre.

ADULT TRAINING CENTRE, HAWLEY, BARNSTAPLE

An Adult Training Centre for the North Devon area was opened in 1966 for the training of handicapped adults. This centre also has hostel accommodation.

HOSPITALS

The North Devon Infirmary (125 beds) situate in Barnstaple serves the area and provides modern medical and surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

Two wards (with a total of thirty three beds) at the Alexandra Hospital, Barnstaple are set aside as an annexe to the North Devon Infirmary and post-operative and recovery patients are transferred there as soon as possible.

There are also one hundred beds set aside for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 the local health authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) are responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and the Devon County Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and the Rural District and the headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple (Barnstaple 5321). The staff consists of four paid full-time members, twenty men volunteers and fourteen volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the hospital by the doctor concerned and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the ambulance is not necessary.

LABORATORIES

The Public Health Laboratory, of which Dr. B. Moore is the Director, is situated at Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter. It is installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all doctors.

Bacteriological examinations of water, milk and ice-cream are also carried out there.

There is a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple with a full-time pathologist and technical staff to meet the needs of the whole of North Devon.

The blood bank is at this local laboratory.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

There are nine district nurses in the area, all of whom act as midwives.

CARE OF THE AGED

Wherever possible, elderly persons who are living alone are given every assistance to enable them to remain as long as possible in their own homes. They are visited by Health Visitors and in the case of ill-health by the District Nurse.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

The V.D. Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary Casualty Outpatients Department as follows:-

Males: Mondays at 5.15 p.m. and Thursdays at 5.45 p.m.
Females: Mondays at 4 p.m. and Thursdays at 4.30 p.m.

The Chest Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary Glossop Annexe on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

HOUSING

During the year six Closing Orders and two Demolition Orders were made by the Council. Three formal Undertakings were accepted from owners that properties would not be used for human habitation until such time as they had been made fit to the satisfaction of the Council.

The number of applicants on the Council's housing list at the close of 1970 was 242 as compared with 245 at the close of 1969.

During the year forty eight dwellings were completed at Barn Park, Wrafton.

The following grants were approved for the improvement of old properties:-

	<u>Owner/Occupied:</u>	<u>Tenanted:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Improvement	32	18	50
Standard	34	21	55

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Public Health Department,
Room 406,
The Civic Centre,
BARNSTAPLE.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my sixth Annual Report on the activities of the Public Health Department during 1970.

Again the year provided a very full share of mixtures of interest and problems associated with the widespread and varied activities of the Department.

With the increasing throughput at the Rookabear slaughterhouse, it was very apparent to me that the duty of meat inspection was being carried out at the expense of important routine activities, particularly the supervision of food premises. The amount of slaughtering taking place is considerable for such a Rural District and inevitably its needs dictated the working of the Department.

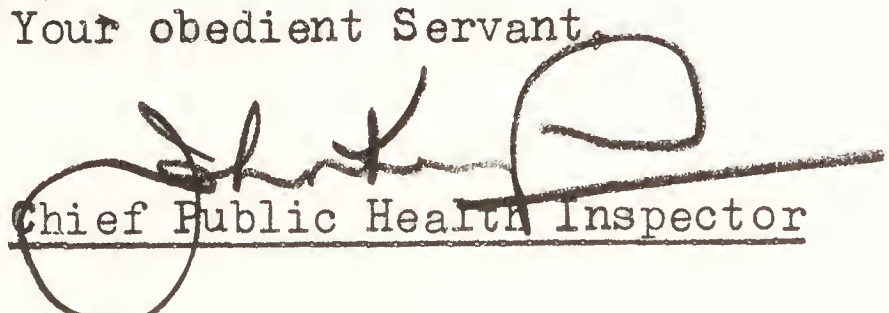
It was therefore pleasing to know that the Council readily accepted the need for additional staff and agreed to the appointment of another Public Health Inspector and I was pleased to welcome Mr. B.W. Dale to the staff in October.

The refuse collection and disposal services are another major business within the Department and there were times during the year when appreciable difficulties arose in maintaining services, but it was managed.

I believe that the Public Health Department functioned most satisfactorily during the year, having regard to all the circumstances and obstacles. I appreciate the co-operative attitude shown by members of the Council and the Public Health Committee and in particular the Chairman, Mr. F.J. Ridd-Jones, and trust that they accept my belief that quietly coping with the work load with the minimum of fuss and publicity has its advantages.

The important public health matters of sewerage and sewage disposal are included and I have to thank the Surveyor for the information provided.

I am,
Your obedient Servant.


Chief Public Health Inspector

WATER

PUBLIC SUPPLIES

The North Devon Water Board provides a supply of chlorinated mains water to all villages in the Rural District, with the exception of Challacombe and Saunton.

The mains water is distributed to almost all areas from the works at Bratton Fleming. Parracombe, however, has an independent system supplied from deep seated springs near the village. The Brendon area is served by a mains supply from the Lynton water works.

The main reservoir at Wistlandpound has a capacity of 341,000,000 gallons and the Bratton Fleming water works distribute more than 2,000,000 gallons of water a day.

During 1970, mains water connections were provided for 246 properties, including farms, in the rural area.

The parishes most effected being Braunton (78 connections) Heanton Punchardon (26 connections) Kentisbury (23 connections) Georgeham (19 connections) Fremington (17 connections) and Combe Martin (16 connections).

PRIVATE SUPPLIES

Throughout all the parishes in the Rural District there are still hamlets, including isolated dwellings and farms, which rely on their own water supplies drawn from wells and springs. The total number of properties involved is probably in excess of one thousand. The largest private supply is at Saunton, which serves more than thirty properties, but in the near future it is proposed that this system be handed over to the North Devon Water Board.

SAMPLING

To assess the quality of a water supply, bacteriological examinations should be carried out at least monthly, with any lesser frequency it is impossible to state that a supply can be regarded as satisfactory.

With the many private supplies in the area such a frequency of sampling would be difficult to attain, but during the later part of the year more time has been spent on the investigation and check sampling of these water sources.

The North Devon Water Board arranged for the final water from the Bratton Fleming works to be submitted for bacteriological examination each week. In addition, mains water is sampled regularly throughout the district at consumers premises.

The following summary shows the results of all water samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year in the various parishes.

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>Public Supply</u> (Taken by N.D.W.B.)		<u>Private Supplies</u> (Taken by B.R.D.C.)	
	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Arlington	-	-	7	9
Atherington	-	-	1	-
Berrynarbor	10	-	2	3
Bratton Fleming	80 *	1	1	1
Braunton	21	-	1	7
Brendon	42	-	1	6
Challacombe	-	-	1	1
Combe Martin	20	-	5	-
Countisbury	-	-	2	5
East Down	-	-	-	1
Fremington	5	-	-	2
Georgeham	19	-	-	1
Goodleigh	-	-	-	1
Heanton Punchardon	6	-	-	-
High Bray	-	-	-	4
Horwood	1	-	-	-
Instow	24 *	4	1	8
Kentisbury	-	-	-	2
Landkey	-	-	-	1
Marwood	4	-	-	1
Morteheo	28	-	2	1
Parracombe	11	-	5	5
Pilton West	-	-	1	-
Shirwell	6	-	-	-
Swimbridge	-	-	5	9
Tawstock	2	-	1	8
Trentishoe	-	-	2	-
West Down	8	-	-	1
	287	5	37	81

* Includes two samples taken by B.R.D.C.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Surveyor's Department is responsible for the operation of main drainage systems in the following areas.

Atherington

This village scheme consistently produces an effluent of a quality well within the standards of the Royal Commission and the requirements of the River Authority.

Berrynarbor

A small sewage treatment works serves the properties at the southern end of the village. These works are not efficient and will eventually be abandoned when a comprehensive main drainage scheme is provided for the whole of Berrynarbor.

A new length of sewer to serve Hagginton Hill was completed during the year and minor alterations were carried out at the sewage treatment works to cater for the increased flow and also to generally improve the quality of the effluent.

Bratton Fleming

Large volumes of surface and infiltration water enter this system and complicate the operation of the plant. Bratton Fleming is a key settlement and in order to overcome the present difficulties and to allow for future development, it will be necessary in the foreseeable future to reconstruct the treatment works and to provide additional sewers. The preliminary surveys have been carried out and a site selected for a new treatment works.

Braunton

The flow into the Vellator sewage works is approximately 230,000 gallons per day during dry weather and rises to over 3,000,000 gallons per day during heavy rain. Consent was granted by the Minister, after appeal, for the flow into the works to be increased to 350,000 gallons per day.

Combe Martin

The village drains to a sea outfall through which untreated sewage is discharged into the sea below low water level spring tides. The system works entirely by gravity, except for a number of properties in the Newberry area, where a small ejector lifts the sewage into the gravity system. The outfall functions efficiently.

The system has no equipment for measuring flows and, consequently, the volume discharged is not known.

Georgeham and Croyde

These villages drain by gravity to a pumping station at Croyde Bay where the sewage is passed through macerating pumps and then into the sea by an outfall at Pencil Rock near Baggy Point.

Goodleigh

The village system includes a treatment works incorporating a septic tank. The plant gives considerable trouble and a good quality effluent has not been produced since the works were first constructed.

The stone filter media was replaced with a plastic media in an effort to improve the effluent, but has not produced the desired effect. It is proposed to introduce re-circulation during 1971/72.

Knowle

The village of Knowle drains to a small pre-war sewage works which will be abandoned if, and when, the Knowle system is connected into the Braunton main drainage area. Meanwhile, the works continue to produce an effluent just within the Royal Commission standard.

Marwood

A scheme to provide main drainage for the hamlets of Guineaford, Prixford and Kingsheanton was prepared during 1970 and it is hoped to invite tenders to commence work in the ensuing year.

Mortehoe and Woolacombe

Woolacombe has main drainage facilities in which sewage is passed via a partial treatment works to a sea outfall. Consulting Engineers have been preparing a report on the scheme with a view to reconstruction of the system in whole, or in part. At North Morte, sewage is discharged to the sea through an outfall at Rockham Beach after treatment in a septic tank.

The village of Mortehoe is sewered and sewage is pumped from Castle Rock to the Woolacombe system for treatment.

Parracombe

This key settlement has a main drainage system constructed in 1960. The treatment works provide full biological treatment and consistently produces an effluent of a good standard.

Saunton

This is a very old sewerage system which continues to function without obvious nuisances. The sewage gravitates to a large septic tank and the effluent from this tank is distributed by a series of trenches in the sand dunes.

South Bank Sewerage Scheme

This system serves the built-up area of Hele Manor, Oakland Park, Bickington, Fremington, Yelland and Instow and includes that part of the Borough of Barnstaple which lies to the west of the River Taw. The bulk of the sewage is pumped to the treatment works at Yelland via pumping stations situated at Anchor Wood, Oakland Park, Fremington and Instow.

The pumps at Fremington deliver 75,000 gallons per hour and in dry weather operate for just over three hours a day, but in storm weather up to fifteen hours have been recorded.

Large volumes of surface water enter the sewers by the Magdala branch which serves Bickington village. Investigations have been instituted in an effort to trace the source of this water.

The Yelland treatment works provide screening, grit removal and primary settlement and the settled sewage is discharged into the River Taw at a point near the East Yelland Power Station. The works were designed to treat a dry weather flow of 369,000 gallons and at present have a capacity of approximately 40,000 gallons per day available.

Stoke Rivers

A new scheme to serve the village was constructed in 1970 at a cost of some £11,000.

Taw Valley

The area served includes Bishops Tawton, Landkey, Swimbridge, Mount Sandford and the Rumsam district of the Borough. Three pumping stations deliver sewage to the main central station at Pill, Rock Park, which discharges into the Borough sewers in Taw Vale. At present the whole of the sewage from this area is discharged crude into the River Taw at Castle Quay, but eventually will be pumped from Pottington to a new treatment works to be constructed at Ashford by the Borough Council.

West Down

A small treatment works serves part of the village and produces an effluent within the Royal Commission standard.

Westleigh

The new sewage treatment works to provide for primary settlement and cold sludge digestion was under construction at the end of the year.

Upon completion of these works, the Barnstaple R.D.C. will no longer discharge any untreated sewage into the rivers Taw, or Torridge, or into the estuary.

Future Main Drainage Proposals

In accordance with the Council's programme for main drainage in the district proposed during 1968, the capital works programme has continued. The Stoke Rivers main drainage scheme and the Old Torrington relief sewer were completed during the year.

Construction of the Fremington relief sewer was delayed owing to intense local opposition.

General Situation

The Rural District Council has, over the years, provided main drainage facilities for approximately 90% of the resident population and the present capital works programme will bring these amenities to an additional 5%.

The Rural District includes a number of popular holiday resorts and considerable capital sums have been spent since the war to ensure that the bathing beaches are free of contamination from sewage.

In general, the present installations are satisfactory, the only exception being Woolacombe, where the flow during the peak holiday period is in excess of the capacity of the sewage treatment works. However, as a result of close control and supervision, the works are operated at a high level of efficiency and the likelihood of beach pollution is remote. The flow increases annually in spite of severe restriction on development and additional treatment facilities are urgently required.

At the end of the year, Consulting Engineers were working on a preliminary report setting out proposals for the necessary improvements in this area.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Surveyor's Department is responsible for the maintenance of the following public conveniences.

Braunton (Parish Hall)

Damage to these conveniences is a regular feature as a result of vandalism.

Braunton (Car Park)

Brendon

In 1970, the permanent conveniences at Malmsmead were brought into use in conjunction with a new car park provided by the Exmoor National Park Committee.

Combe Martin (Seaside, Skirhead, Hollands Park and Kiln Car Park)

Being situated in a holiday area, these conveniences are in continuous operation during the summer season.

Croyde (Village and Downend)

Croyde Bay

Georgeham

This small block of conveniences are no longer large enough for the heavy demands made upon them.

Instow

These are used extensively during the season, as is the case with all public conveniences in the coastal resorts.

Woolacombe (Marine Drive)

Countisbury (County Gate)

A chemical system of public conveniences is installed in both places. Those at County Gate give rise to a good deal of nuisance owing to maintenance problems.

Woolacombe (Red Barn, Beach and Combesgate)

These are used extensively during the holiday season.

Bratton Fleming

Mortehoe

The Council has an agreement with the Village Hall Committee whereby the conveniences are made available to the public in return for an annual contribution towards the running costs.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

COLLECTION

Weekly collections of household refuse were maintained from the majority of premises throughout the district, the only exceptions being in a limited number of small villages and hamlets which received a fortnightly service.

Summer Services

During the four months from the end of May until the end of September, two collections were made each week in the holiday areas of Instow, Croyde, Georgeham, Woolacombe, Mortehoe, Berrynarbor and Combe Martin for the benefit of hotels, guesthouses, holiday caravan sites and certain business premises. Apart from the improved service for those places catering for visitors, the arrangement tended to ease the problems of collection.

Several holiday establishments requested additional collections and these were also undertaken with a charge being made for each visit.

It was decided to discontinue the services which had been operated on the public holidays at Easter, Spring and Summer Bank Holidays in previous years. Although this entailed alterations to days and rounds, so as to include all the due collections, no particular difficulties were experienced and the Department's workers were able to enjoy these holidays.

Service Establishments

Special collections were carried out at the Army Camps at Fremington and Instow and there was the regular collection of refuse from the Royal Air Force Station at Chivenor which is the subject of a yearly contract.

At Chivenor R.A.F. Station, collections were made frequently from the messes, twice weekly from the lines, certain offices and stores, clubs, shops, sick quarters and workshops and weekly from the remainder of the stores, offices, sections, hangars, boiler houses and married quarters.

Commercial Premises

It was agreed in principle during the year that consideration should be given to the introduction of charges for the collection of abnormal amounts of refuse at commercial and trade premises throughout the Rural District.

Subsequently, scales of charges were suggested which allowed for amounts ranging from £2 10s. to £20 per property based on the number of receptacles, but after careful consideration of all the aspects involved with such a scheme, the Council decided that it would be undesirable to take any action on such proposals.

Unwanted Articles

On numerous occasions during the year, assistance was given to ratepayers with awkward, unusual or bulky items, or accumulations of refuse which they wished to discard.

Additional items of reasonable size were usually collected with the normal refuse without question. Arrangements were made for the collection of such articles as mattresses and furniture after residents had contacted the Department.

Considerable amounts of refuse, or bulky items such as car bodies, invariably necessitated a special visit by a lorry and crew and in certain instances a charge was made.

A local firm of scrap merchants accepted any abandoned vehicles collected by the Department and several cars were disposed of in this way during the year.

Particulars of the availability of these services were incorporated with notices in the local press regarding public holiday collection arrangements and resulted in many requests for special collections. The publicity was given during the winter and spring months when vehicles and men were more easily available for this additional work.

Improvements

Detailed surveys of collection routes and areas were undertaken when time permitted. These are considered to be essential before any worthwhile reorganisation of rounds can be effected.

Requests were received from the Parish Councils of Shirwell and Marwood for weekly collections to replace the fortnightly services in those parishes. In addition to the route surveys to effect these improvements, the rounds for four other areas, involving five vehicles, needed to be altered.

Refuse Sacks

The introduction of a sack system of refuse collection was eventually considered in detail in October. This matter had been raised earlier in the year, and previously, but had hitherto been rejected, mainly on the grounds of increased costs.

The main advantages and disadvantages were outlined and it was suggested and accepted that plastic bags intended for use as bin liners should be purchased, at an approximate annual cost of £8,000, but only for domestic premises.

It was finally agreed that this improved method of refuse collection would be introduced in the following financial year.

Litter

During the summer months the smallest collection vehicle was used for the collection of litter from the many receptacles that have been provided throughout the area. Where necessary, containers were emptied two or three times each week.

Contributions towards the costs involved were received in respect of the collection of litter from sites within the Exmoor National Park and at lay-bys on various main roads within the district.

Permanent litter bins in villages and lay-bys are mainly of the large covered concrete type, with wooden fronts, or particularly in the shopping areas of Braunton and Woolacombe and at various bus stops, a smaller concrete type.

Metal drum containers were used in remote areas of the district frequented by summer visitors. When necessary, they were overhauled and repainted during the winter. These utilitarian receptacles are cheap, convenient and almost indestructible.

The Exmoor National Park is provided with plastic sack holders and these have proved to be a satisfactory improvement.

DISPOSAL

The use of sites at Claypit Coverts, Fremington and Berry Down, Berrynarbor for the tipping of refuse continued throughout the year.

Refuse from Brendon and Countisbury and other areas in the north-eastern part of the district was deposited at the Lyn Down tip of the Lynton Urban District Council and an appropriate payment for this use was made to that Authority.

Tipping proceeded at Fremington on part of the further area of land which had been leased adjoining the completed tip. This was hampered throughout the summer months by fires, which took time to control. Considerable amounts of rubble and soil were deposited at the tip and were most useful for the improvement of the approach road and as a covering material.

At Berry Down, a length of watercourse which flows from beneath the tip was piped and covered with soil to a depth of several feet by direct labour from the Department in conjunction with the Surveyor's works section. This work was required to be carried out so that the area for tipping refuse might be extended further down the valley.

The condition and appearance of this tip showed an improvement at the end of the year. As the tipping area is moved down the valley it becomes less conspicuous, but the limited use of two days a week in the summer and only one during the winter, means that this improvement is very gradual.

It is personally reassuring to know that the Council has sufficient land available at both tips to allow for refuse to be deposited there for up to another ten years.

Ilfracombe Urban District Council is not in such a fortunate position, being seriously concerned about the limited space available at their existing tip and with very little prospect of finding an alternative site. A preliminary enquiry was received towards the end of the year about the possibility of their use of Berry Down tip on a short term basis to assist in prolonging the usefulness of their tip.

The urgency of the problem at Ilfracombe prompted that Council to approach the Department of the Environment for advice and assistance, and as a result, in company with colleagues responsible for refuse disposal at Ilfracombe and Barnstaple, I journeyed to the Department's Offices in London in December to discuss the matter of refuse disposal in this area of North Devon with their senior technical adviser. The advice given confirmed our own views that neighbouring local authorities should co-operate and assist each other wherever possible.

At the close of the year, the owner of approximately one and a half acres of low lying land adjoining Bradiford Water at Muddiford in Marwood Parish indicated that he was prepared to offer the site to this Council to use for the tipping of refuse. The observations of the Devon River Authority were awaited.

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

New Vehicles

The Pakamatic vehicle with a body capacity of 40/50 cubic yards which was ordered from Shelvoke and Drewry, was not available for the commencement of the summer season as had been anticipated. This was stated to be due to a failure on the part of component manufacturers to maintain deliveries, and the machine was eventually collected and put into service in August.

The firm was able to provide demonstration compression machines with body capacities of 20 cubic yards and 60 cubic yards on two occasions in July which eased the task of maintaining services which was causing some difficulty, in addition to being of advantage in considering future purchases.

Refuse Collection Fleet

Details follow of the various vehicles in use, all of which are powered with diesel engines. The last two columns show the actual mileage travelled by each vehicle in 1970, together with the average fuel consumption expressed in miles per gallon.

		<u>Make and Type</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>MPG</u>
	*	1963 Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic	50 cu yd	7,487	6
<u>A</u>	*	1970 Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic	40/50 cu yd	4,236	(i) 7
	*	1967 Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic	35 cu yd	10,150 E	7
	+	1965 Bedford/Eagle Crushload	35 cu yd	12,050 E	7
	x	1960 Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft Tipper	12 cu yd	8,800 E(ii)	8
	<u>R</u>	1958 Bedford/Eagle Side Loader	10 cu yd	3,618 (iii)	9
		1968 Land-Rover/Tiverton Rear Loader	7 cu yd	14,390	16
		1965 Ford/Homalloy Rear Loader	5 cu yd	10,500 E	20
	*	Hydraulic compression ram			
	*	Hydraulic crushing and compression rams			
	x	Hydraulic compression plate			
	<u>R</u>	Reserve vehicle			
	<u>A</u>	New August 1970			
	<u>E</u>	Estimated mileage			
	(i)	Five months use			
	(ii)	De-licensed January and February			
	(iii)	De-licensed July to December			

The total mileage travelled by all these vehicles during the year was more than 5,000 miles fewer than the figure for 1969. For the past five years it has given great personal satisfaction to see this mileage being reduced each year, as the following figures show; now some 22,000 miles less per annum than in 1966.

Approximate Annual Mileage of Refuse Collection Vehicles

1966	.....	94,000 miles
1967	.....	87,500 miles
1968	.....	80,700 miles
1969	.....	77,000 miles
1970	.....	71,300 miles

With the continuing increase in the number of premises in the Rural District, as well as the additional amounts of refuse to be collected from each property, this annual decrease in mileage is proof of the value of surveys of collection routes and subsequent reorganisation. These savings allow for further extensions of services with the existing number of vehicles and personnel and therefore effectively delay the time when these factors will need to be considered.

Existing Vehicles

The 1958 Bedford/Eagle side loading machine rendered invaluable service as the reserve vehicle with the minimum of attention. It was taken out of regular use in June because of gearbox trouble and other defects which meant that it could not properly be used for refuse collection, but it was considered worthy of retention for possible use at the refuse tip for the movement of soil.

The 1960 Fore and Aft Tipper was given a complete overhaul before being returned to service as a future reserve vehicle. The retention of the other vehicle of similar type for spare parts that have become difficult to obtain proved to be worthwhile on several occasions, with a major item being an exchange of engines.

The 1963 Pakamatic continued to give excellent service, the only repairs necessary being to the working surfaces of the Hopper and the replacement of the steering box which were undertaken before the commencement of the summer season.

The 1965 Ford vehicle was fitted with a replacement engine and gearbox during the year.

The 1965 Crushload required a new clutch assembly and repairs to the body hopper.

The 1967 Pakamatic had to be fitted with a replacement differential unit, but this was provided under the terms of the guarantee.

The Land-Rover did not prove to be as reliable as expected with defects occurring in the gearbox and steering assembly which meant that it was out of service on several occasions. The local suppliers were not able to assist and the matter of the unsatisfactory features was taken up with the manufacturers with a certain amount of success.

Tip Control Equipment

Two machines are used for levelling and covering refuse at the two tips.

1966 Bristol Taurus tractor shovel

1962 Fordson Major four wheel drive tractor

The Bristol Taurus is a tracked machine which is normally in use at the main tip at Fremington. It is powerful and compact and most suitable for tip control work, being capable of soil and refuse excavation, as well as tip compaction. It was given a major overhaul during the year.

The Fordson tractor, which is equipped with a bucket is not so powerful, nor robust, but has the advantage of being able to travel under its own power to other tips, as well as being a reserve unit. It has the disadvantage of being prone to punctures.

Future Replacements

In December, consideration was given to the purchase of a new refuse collection vehicle. Details of a used machine in good condition which would be available locally were also provided and it was agreed that this should be acquired if a suitable price could be negotiated.

Repairs and Maintenance

The decision made last year by the Council for repairs and maintenance to its vehicles to be undertaken by its own staff was, in my opinion, proved beyond any doubt to be a sensible one in every respect.

The savings on labour costs were considerable, and the more convenient arrangements for the servicing of machines and the carrying out of repairs were a great advantage in ensuring that refuse collection vehicles were out of use for the shortest possible time.

From a personal view point, the employment of a fitter entails more involvement than the previous procedure whereby vehicles were sent to local garages, where the time taken and the amounts charged were often worrying, but all that was required was the approval of the appropriate account.

The fitter is on the establishment of the Public Health Department to ensure priority for work on refuse collection vehicles, but the servicing and repair of vehicles of the Surveyor's Department is undertaken by mutual arrangement.

The Chargehand Fitter originally appointed resigned on 30th September and the post was filled again from 19th October.

PERSONNEL

The labour force of the Public Health Department totals twenty one and comprises a foreman, a chargehand fitter, six driver/loaders, twelve collectors and a tractor operator.

These workers again proved themselves to be most reliable by keeping the essential refuse collection and disposal services functioning satisfactorily throughout the year, particularly during the summer season when their task was increased considerably. They readily coped with setbacks occasioned by the breakdown of vehicles, or absence of staff.

A large proportion of the men have worked for the Council for more than five years, four drivers for more than ten years and the tractor operator for more than twenty years and it was pleasing to note that staff changes were again few.

It was sad to relate that one of the Department's most reliable workers passed away after a five week illness in November at the age of fifty four. He had worked for the Council for more than nine and a half years.

Two other loaders resigned, and one transferred to the Surveyor's Department to the lighter task of road sweeping as it was apparent that the heavy work was aggravating his physical condition.

Few complaints were received regarding the refuse collection services and this should be regarded as a tribute to the men who are carrying out this heavy work in all kinds of weather. The Council is fortunate to have these hard-working men serving as their representatives throughout the district.

Although probably better forgotten, for the record all the personnel engaged on refuse collection absented themselves from duty on Friday, 16th October and Monday, 19th October at the request of their Trade Union in connection with a national pay claim. I believe they were reluctant to do this, preferring to leave the withdrawal of labour to their colleagues in large towns and cities throughout the country who were causing considerable disruption of services with prolonged strike periods.

Fortunately this token stoppage did not cause any serious local problems.

HOUSING

The inspections of dwellings likely to be unfit for human habitation in accordance with the standards recommended by the Housing Act, 1957 were maintained and reports were regularly submitted at meetings of the Public Health Committee on houses that were not considered to be capable of being made fit at reasonable cost. Formal action normally resulted in the making of Closing Orders, Demolition Orders, or the submission of Undertakings from owners.

The majority of the properties were considered to be worthy of retention and modernisation and owners were encouraged to consider seriously such action wherever appropriate. Proposals for repair and improvement were forthcoming in a number of instances.

It is important to realise that the rate of progress in dealing with unfit houses must be related to the availability of suitable alternative accommodation for those persons who will be displaced.

It should be noted that the number of unfit houses in this District is reckoned to be appreciably fewer than in other parts of the country when the ever present demand for older properties for holiday and retirement purposes is considered.

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses Elsewhere

Unfit Houses Closed

Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957 and Section 26 of the Housing Act, 1961	11
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Persons Displaced

From houses to be demolished	2
From houses to be closed	13

Families Displaced

From houses to be demolished	1
From houses to be closed	5

Unfit Houses Made Fit

After formal notice under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	5
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Previously included in a demolition order which has been revoked under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957	1
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CARAVAN SITES

The majority of the caravan sites within the district have been provided for holiday purposes and during the summer season these are inspected regularly to check that conditions appertaining to the site licences are being observed.

As there are almost thirty licensed sites located between Yelland and Parracombe and concentrated in the holiday areas of Croyde, Woolacombe, Mortehoe, Berrynarbor and Combe Martin, these inspections entail a considerable proportion of the time of the public health inspectors during the summer.

In addition, details are recorded of the number of caravans situated on sites during the particular months of June, July and August. This information is obtained for the County Planning Officer for use in connection with his annual survey of caravanning and the holiday trends and development in Devon.

Licensed Sites

Details are given of the main sites licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. The majority are holiday sites, where caravans are permitted to be used for human habitation only during the period from March to October in each year, and touring caravans are not allowed to remain on the sites for periods longer than three weeks. There are, of course, no such restrictions for residential sites.

Other sites which have been granted licences, mostly for one caravan only, and none for more than three, are as listed hereunder.

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>USE</u>
Combe Martin	1	Holiday
Fremington	1	Residential and touring
Goodleigh	1	Residential
Kentisbury	1	Holiday
Landkey	1	Residential
Mortehoe	1	Holiday

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>CARAVAN SITES</u>	<u>CARAVANS</u>	
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Resid.</u>
<u>ASHFORD</u>	Midlands Caravan Park	63	—
<u>BERRYNARBOR</u>	Berrynarbor Trailer Park	65(*15)	6
	Indicknowle Farm	5	—
	The Napps	*20	—
	Sandaway Caravan Park	90	—
	Watermouth Caves	69	—
<u>BRAUNTON</u>	Dune View Caravan Park	56	56
	Lobb Field	*50	—
	Score Farm	22	22
<u>COMBE MARTIN</u>	Glenavon Holiday Park	80	—
<u>FREMINGTON</u>	Bickington Caravan Site	35	35
	Lagoon View, Yelland	200	5
<u>GEORGEHAM</u>	Barn Lawn	2	—
	Burrows Mead, Croyde	150	—
	Ora Stone, Croyde	31	6
	Lyncroft Farm, North Buckland	4	—
	Putsborough Sands	20	—
	Ruda Caravan Park, Croyde	280	1
	Seabirds Park, Croyde	6	—
<u>GOODLEIGH</u>	Riversmead, Snapper	*20	—
<u>HEANTON</u> <u>PUNCHARDON</u>	Chivenor Cross	*25	—
<u>KENTISBURY</u>	Kentisbury Grange	61	—
<u>LANDKEY</u>	Mount View	24	24
<u>MORTEHOE</u>	Cleavewood Caravan Park	80	—
	North Morte Farm	73	—
	Pine Cones Caravan Park	50	—
	Twitchen House	317(*42)	—
	Woolacombe Sands Caravan Park	70	—
	Woolacombe Bay Caravan Park	245	—
<u>PARRACOMBE</u>	Lorna Doone Farm	*20	—

* Touring caravans only

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MEAT PRODUCTION

Slaughterhouses

Four slaughterhouses were licensed for the year 1970.

The general standard of slaughterhouses within the Rural District is now considered to be good, due basically to the fact that the two major establishments are of modern construction.

At the premises at Rookabear which were brought into use last year, the amount of slaughtering continued to show a steady increase mainly of sheep as was to be expected. The approval by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the establishment to slaughter sheep and lambs for export to the continent will obviously tend to maintain such increases. The facilities and accommodation are sufficient to deal with considerably greater throughputs than had been achieved by the end of the year.

	<u>Beasts:</u>	<u>Calves:</u>	<u>Pigs:</u>	<u>Sheep:</u>
1969	250	3,605	1,943	77,643
1970	682	4,443	1,489	133,725

The most important matter that suffers when business increases at a slaughterhouse is invariably the standard of hygiene unless the operators conscientiously maintain regular and thorough cleansing routines. Consequently more time and attention was required to be given by Public Health Inspectors to this aspect of meat production.

This duty applied equally to the Fremington slaughterhouse where in addition to basic hygiene the general decoration of the premises gave cause for concern. The Council accepted that conditions were unsatisfactory when the slaughterhouse licence for 1970 was renewed for six months only in the first instance, with a directive that necessary works must be completed within that period.

Of the two smaller slaughterhouses which are connected with butchery businesses, only the one at Braunton continued in use, no slaughtering taking place at Swimbridge.

Meat Inspection

The important duty of the inspection of all meat and offals from animals killed at the three slaughterhouses was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

From 1st February the hours of slaughter at the Fremington slaughterhouse were subject to the same control as those which had been applied at the Rookabear establishment from the previous July. The delay being due to the fact that the proprietor had made formal objection to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food regarding the Council's proposals.

The permitted hours of slaughter were applied as follows:-

Mondays to Fridays	- 7.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Saturdays	- 7.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon
Sundays	- No slaughtering

The two permanent Meat Inspectors normally worked with one at each of the two major slaughterhouses, where they undertook alternate periods of duty of two weeks, with the Public Health Inspectors regularly assisting with week-end meat inspection.

At the beginning of the year, the steadily increasing slaughtering at Rookabear was occupying the services of one Meat Inspector completely with a similar situation beginning to arise with the time spent in assistance by the young woman Authorised Meat Inspector who had been engaged last year on a casual basis.

These arrangements, necessitating an increased use of Public Health Inspectors for meat inspection duties, were affecting the availability of staff for public health work and therefore it was agreed that the appointment of additional staff should be given consideration.

The Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose in March recommended that further consideration should be given to the appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector in preference to another Meat Inspector and in due course this was accepted with emphasis being placed on the significant amount of meat inspection that would be required of the officer.

In the meantime, the Meat Inspector employed in a part time capacity found permanent employment and from the end of March until the beginning of June, when it was eventually possible to engage another Meat Inspector on a temporary casual basis, one Public Health Inspector was needed each day for full-time meat inspection and during staff absences both were required. The position was eased by the Council agreeing to limited overtime payments to Meat Inspectors for hours worked in excess of thirty eight each week.

Before the newly appointed Inspector commenced duties in October, the meat inspection arrangements were revisde and improved with the daily supervision at the slaughterhouse being clearly made the responsibility of the senior additional Public Health Inspector.

The employment of the temporary Meat Inspector was agreed to be for not less than six months, but it was understood that he would seek a permanent appointment and he terminated his services at the end of October.

The revised arrangements for meat inspection then worked reasonably satisfactorily until the end of the year with assistance to the Meat Inspector on duty at Rookabear slaughterhouse (each afternoon and part of each morning) being effected by the three Public Health Inspectors working on a rota system.

It was indicated to the Public Health Committee that even with this increase in the establishment of the Department it was not considered that there were satisfactory relief provisions to cover any periods of holidays and sickness.

Enquiries were made regarding the possibility of local veterinary surgeons being prepared to assist with meat inspection at times of pressure and in an emergency.

Animals Killed and Inspected

The number of animals killed at the four slaughterhouses during the past seven years are shown as follows:-

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Beasts	2015	2418	1902	1446	1341	1656	2740
Calves	1376	1777	3118	3095	2407	3662	4627
Pigs	10190	13921	6988	4711	5760	7025	7317
Sheep	86605	119321	132515	131174	119465	129501	179488
Total	100186	137437	144523	140426	128973	141844	194172

Carcases and Offals Inspected and Condemned

<u>ANIMALS</u>	<u>Cattle excl'd. cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sheep</u>
Killed and Inspected:	2,311	429	4,627	7,317	179,488
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticeri</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	16	83	27	618
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	621	186	67	547	16,727
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticeri	27.00	47.09	3.24	7.84	9.66
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	14	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	0.19	-
<u>Cysticerosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections of all types of premises associated with food trades were carried out as frequently as possible, during the year. Particular attention was given to catering establishments in the holiday areas of the district.

Standards were generally found to be satisfactory, especially at premises in the holiday areas, which of course is most desirable.

The following list details the types of food premises within the district and is classified in accordance with the principal business of the various traders:-

Bakers and Confectioners	8
Butchers	17
Cafes and Canteens	52
Confectioners & Ice Cream Retailers ..	33
Fishmongers and Fish Friers	8
Greengrocers	10
Grocers	100
Hotels	35
Licensed Premises	49
<u>Total</u>	<u>312</u>

MILK AND DAIRIES

Within the district there are more than ~~eighty~~ farms or dairies which retail raw milk. The majority of these are farms which bottle a proportion of their output, normally for local consumption. Frequently this is for the convenience of the inhabitants of small hamlets who otherwise might have difficulty in obtaining bottled milk. In some instances the amount bottled may only be ~~one~~ or two gallons, or as few as half a dozen households supplied.

The periodical testing of the various supplies of milk, as received by the consumer, is the responsibility of the Devon County Council, but with such a large number of retailers in this district alone, the task of the County Public Health Inspector in arranging for them all to be checked at frequent intervals is formidable.

Occasionally it is possible for untreated milk to contain the organisms of brucellosis which, when transferred from the cow to the consumer in this manner, may give rise to the condition known as undulant fever which, since the eradication of tuberculosis, has become the most serious health risk in raw milk.

To assist the County Public Health Inspector, and more particularly to obtain first hand information on local milk supplies, inspectors from the Department continued to take samples of raw milk from the various retailers and submit them to laboratory tests for brucella and keeping quality.

Details of the results of the tests applied to the random samples of untreated milk obtained during 1970 follow:-

Samples for brucella ring test	32	
Samples containing brucella organisms ...		NIL
 Samples also for methylene blue test	25	
Samples which failed methylene blue test.		3

Where samples failed the test for keeping quality, checks were made on bottle cleaning and filling routines and repeat samples were all satisfactory.

Pressure of other demands, particularly the Inspectors times of attendance at slaughterhouses required for meat inspection duties, meant that this sampling was somewhat curtailed throughout the year.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme is one of the first stages in the eradication of brucellosis, but unfortunately it has been a voluntary scheme. Therefore until such a programme can be applied to all milking herds, there are no restrictions on the disposal of cows which have been found to have brucella organisms in their milk.

ICE-CREAM

Twenty one samples of loose ice-cream from bulk containers at various retailers' premises in the holiday areas of Instow, Croyde, Putsborough, Woolacombe and Combe Martin were obtained during the summer season for bacteriological examination and submitted to the methylene blue reduction test with the following results:-

<u>Producer</u>	<u>Provisional Grade</u>				<u>Total</u>
	1	2	3	4	
A	12	1	1	1	15
B	5	-	-	-	5
C	1	-	-	-	1
Totals	18	1	1	1	21
The majority of samples from any one producer should fall into Grade 1 or 2.					

OFFICES AND SHOPS

The more important matters which require attention where staff are employed are cleanliness, overcrowding, temperatures, ventilation, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, clothing accommodation, sitting facilities, eating facilities, first-aid equipment and the condition of floors, passages and stairs.

Registration and General Inspections

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Premises newly registered</u>	<u>Total registered premises</u>	<u>General Inspections</u>
Offices	-	24	2
Retail Shops	1	98	19
Wholesale shops/warehouses	-	2	1
Catering establishments	1	25	9
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	2	149	41

RODENT CONTROL

The Rodent Operative undertakes the treatment of infestations of rats and mice at residential and local authority premises throughout the district. Advice on treatment was given to the occupiers of business and agricultural premises who were referred, where necessary, to private firms carrying out rodent control work in the area.

All the sewage disposal works and refuse tips were visited regularly and treatments carried out whenever necessary. The laying of test baits in sewers was undertaken and the results showed that there was only slight activity. Poison baiting and the subsequent follow-up visits dealt with any infestations.

In addition, the district received general surveys with particular attention being paid to known sources of infestation and previously infested properties.

FACTORIES

There are sixty premises within the district registered as factories.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Five premises within the district, in the parishes of Bishops Tawton, Bratton Fleming, Braunton, Heanton Punchardon and Tawstock are licensed and required to be inspected to ensure that they are kept in a suitable condition for boarding animals.

All were inspected during the year and conditions were regarded as satisfactory.

PETROLEUM

Eighty three licences were granted to keep petroleum spirit at various premises throughout the district.

The quantities of petroleum stored ranged from 100 gallons to 1,750,000 gallons. The licences issued permitted the storage of a total of 2,046,350 gallons.

During the year further attention was given to the inspection of petrol filling stations to ascertain that premises were constructed and equipped in accordance with the licensing conditions.

EXPLOSIVES

Twenty three licences to keep gunpowder, or mixed explosives were issued in respect of various premises within the district. These were mainly for the storage of fireworks.

PLEASURE BOATS

The licensing of pleasure boat proprietor and boatmen and the inspection of boats plying for hire at Combe Martin, Watermouth Harbour and Instow was carried out in connection with fourteen vessels.

Inspections were made regularly during the season to ensure that the conditions of licences were being observed, particularly with regard to the carrying of passengers, to ascertain that the permitted number of persons for each boat was not exceeded.

Revised terms and conditions relating to the issue of licences which provided for improved standards of equipment and restrictions on times of operation of boats and duration of licences became operative for this year.

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INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

The following is a summary of the main inspections and visits made by the staff of the Public Health Department during 1970.

Visits vary in duration from minutes to hours, but by grouping them under the more important headings, a useful guide is given of the proportion of time spent on the multifarious duties.

Water supplies - public	3
private	308
Swimming pools	17
Drainage and sewerage	260
Caravans	229
Camping	99
Refuse collection	230
Refuse disposal	154
Litter	76
Factories	9
Smoke	8
Dust	4
Nuisances	50
Noise	68
Housing -Public Health Act	81
Housing Act	77
Verminous premises	39
Animals	23
Piggeries	27
Infectious diseases	2
Meat inspection	1770
Food inspection	51
Slaughterhouses	88
Butchers	13
Bakehouses	1
Confectioners	10
Fishmongers and fish fryers	5
Grocers	30
Greengrocers	3
Ice-cream premises	24
Milk producers and retailers	43
Cafes and hotels	55
Licensed premises	8
Mobile food vendors	7
Offices and shops	16
Waste Food Order	7
Animal boarding establishments	6
Petroleum	117
Pleasure boats	28
Betting Gaming and Lotteries	7
Miscellaneous	165

